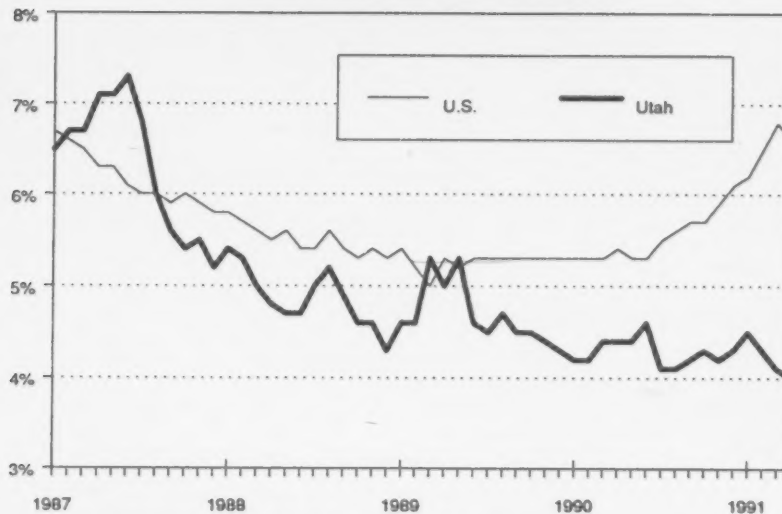


Utah

Labor Market Report

April 1991
Volume 1, No. 4

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates



Source: Utah Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information Services.

The nation's in an economic downturn, yet Utah unemployment continues to drop—how low can it go?

Could Utah's unemployment rate continue to decline in the midst of national recession? The answer is a resounding, "Yes!"

The State April jobless rate fell one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.0 percent from a revised 4.1 percent in March. Although Utah continues to see some layoffs, overall employment expansion remains strong enough to push unemployment lower. Approximately 32,800 Utahns were out-of-work in April 1991—1,600 fewer than in the same month last year.

We see no reason to curb our optimism that Utah will escape any serious effects from the current national downturn. Unemployment is down and job growth is holding strong. In fact, Utah's economy ranks with the top economies in the nation.

In 1990, Utah was fourth in the nation in terms of job expansion. Even with the two-tenths of a point decline in the U.S. unemployment rate, Utah's rate measures more than two and one-half percentage points *lower* than the national average.

Between April 1990 and April 1991, Utah created 29,700 net new jobs—for a robust 4.2-percent growth rate. However, while remaining strong, Utah's job growth did feel a whisper of the national recession in April—some industries are feeling the downturn's pinch—particularly areas of federal defense, manufacturing, mining, and air transportation. But, overall Utah's job growth is the envy of much of the nation. Just this month, the U.S. lost 124,000 jobs.

Services continued to lead the industrial pack with a 7.2-percent growth rate and 12,900 new jobs (over 40 percent of new Utah jobs). Computer services (which include software companies) followed

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summary table

THE RATE (Seasonally Adjusted)

Apr 1991	Utah	4.0%	U.S.	6.6%
Mar 1991	Utah	4.1%	U.S.	6.8%
Apr 1990	Utah	4.4%	U.S.	5.4%

NONFARM JOBS (% Change from a year ago)

Mar 1991	Utah	4.2%	U.S.	-0.9%
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CPI-U (Base Year 1982-84 = 100)

Mar 1991	U.S.	135.0	Yr-over chng	4.9%
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PPI (Base Year 1982-84 = 100)

Mar 1991	U.S.	116.1	Yr-over chng	1.7%
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recent trends to generate one of the highest growth rates—15 percent.

Although services contributed the highest number of new jobs to the State's economy, construction produced the highest growth rate—almost 9 percent. One of the best Utah building years in recent history has kept construction employment on the upswing. Since April of last year, this industry has added 2,200 new positions.

Manufacturing expansion slipped slightly to just

under 3 percent in April. The squeeze of a national recession is being felt in manufacturing, and defense spending cuts have also contributed to the slower growth. However, compared with the massive loss of manufacturing jobs nationally (down 4.5 percent), Utah looks like a production hot spot.

The trade industry increased its employment ranks by 5,900 positions over the past 12 months. As usual, retail trade (particularly restaurants and variety stores) accounted for the bulk of the additional jobs.

Finance/insurance/real estate has made a strong comeback—jobs are up 3.5 percent (1,200 positions) since April 1990. Businesses in this

industry other than those performing "banking-type" functions were responsible for the majority of the new additions.

Government expansion was again hindered by employment cuts in defense-related agencies. Federal government employment is down 900 since April of last year—a decline of 2.2 percent—and more layoffs are expected in May. However, state and local governments held their own to give government a 3,700 job, 2-percent increase.

Transportation/communications/utilities occupies the lowest spot on the employment growth totem pole. Even so, jobs here are still up almost 2 percent from last year. The loss of airline reservation positions continues to plague this sector. On the other hand, railroad transportation and trucking/warehousing have produced some very healthy growth rates.

In the final analysis, Utah's economy should hang tough through the end of the national downturn. Given the positive indicators of the past few months, the U.S. economy should start showing signs of recovery. With the end of the U.S. recession in sight, Utah should continue to thrive. □

Lecia Parks Langston
Chief Economist

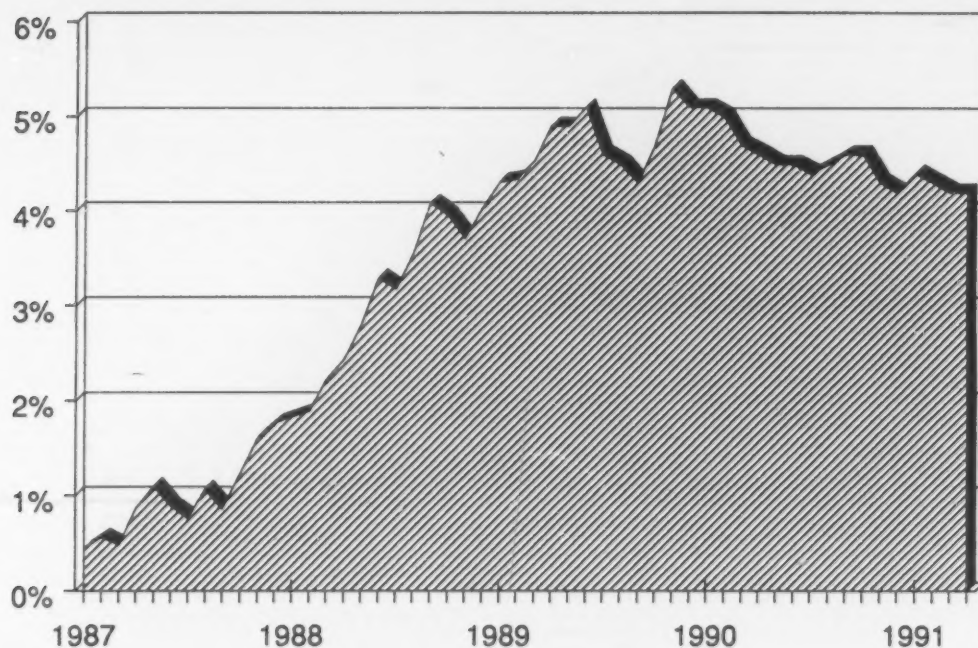
■ **Utah's unemployment rate edged down another tenth of a point to 4.0 percent.**

■ **With a 4.2 percent nonfarm job expansion rate, Utah is one of the top job-producing states in the country.**

■ **The gap between Utah and U.S. unemployment rates held firm—near two and one-half percentage points.**

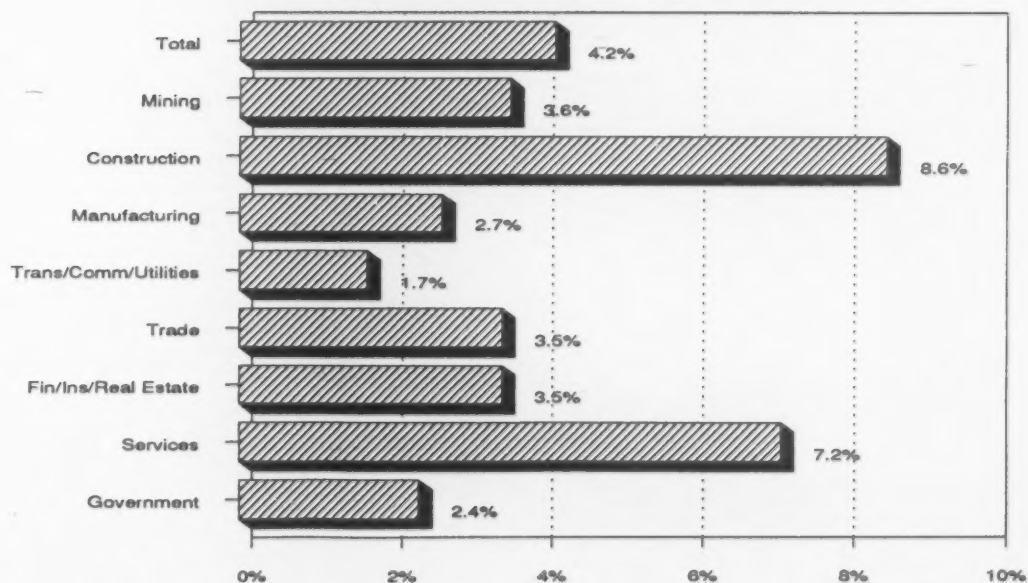
■ **Services, construction, and trade showed the strongest employment expansion over the past 12-month period.**

Year-Over Percent Change in Utah Nonfarm Jobs



Source: Utah Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information Services.

April 1990-91 Percent Growth In Utah Nonfarm Jobs by Industry



Source: Utah Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information Services.

RAW

**Table 1. Utah Civilian Labor Force and Nonagricultural Jobs,
Not Seasonally Adjusted (Numbers in Thousands)**

	Apr. 1991(f)	Apr. 1990	Percent Change	Mar. 1991(p)	Feb. 1991(r)
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	806.4	779.6	3.4	797.7	794.4
Employed	769.2	740.7	3.8	760.1	755.6
Unemployed	37.2	38.9	-4.4	37.7	37.8
Percent of Labor Force	4.6	5.0	—	4.7	4.8
NONAGRICULTURAL JOBS	744.9	715.2	4.2	737.7	730.7
Mining	8.7	8.4	3.6	8.6	8.6
Metal Mining	3.1	3.1	0.0	3.0	3.0
Bituminous Coal Mining	2.6	2.6	0.0	2.6	2.6
Oil/Gas Extraction & Quarrying*	3.0	2.7	11.1	3.0	3.0
Contract Construction	27.9	25.7	8.6	25.7	24.6
Manufacturing	108.0	105.2	2.7	108.3	108.0
Durable Goods	71.4	69.3	3.0	71.8	71.5
Primary Metals	5.9	5.6	5.4	6.0	6.0
Fabricated Metals, Machinery, & Computers	14.0	13.8	1.4	13.9	13.8
Electrical/Electric Equipment (ex. Computers)	11.5	11.7	-1.7	11.5	11.6
Transportation Equipment	17.7	17.5	1.1	18.0	18.0
Lumber/Furniture, Stone/Clay/Glass*	10.3	10.2	1.0	9.9	9.8
Other Durable Goods*	12.0	10.5	14.3	12.5	12.3
Nondurable Goods	36.6	35.9	1.9	36.5	36.5
Food & Related Products	11.6	11.7	-0.9	11.7	11.9
Other Nondurable Goods*	25.0	24.2	3.3	24.8	24.6
Transportation, Communications, & Utilities	42.5	41.8	1.7	42.5	42.1
Railroad Transportation	2.6	2.4	8.3	2.5	2.5
Trucking & Warehousing	15.4	14.8	4.1	15.5	15.4
Transportation by Air*	6.5	6.8	-4.4	6.6	6.6
Other Transportation & Related Services*	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.2
Communications	7.1	7.0	1.4	7.0	7.0
Electric, Gas, & Sanitary Services	7.7	7.7	0.0	7.6	7.5
Trade	173.8	167.9	3.5	171.6	170.6
Wholesale Trade	38.7	37.7	2.7	38.2	38.2
Durable Goods*	22.4	22.3	0.4	22.2	22.2
Nondurable Goods*	16.3	15.4	5.8	16.1	16.0
Retail Trade	135.1	130.2	3.8	133.4	132.4
Food Stores	24.0	23.3	3.0	23.8	24.1
Auto Dealers/Parts Stores, & Gas Stations	15.9	15.6	1.9	15.6	15.6
Eating & Drinking Places	44.6	42.9	4.0	43.9	43.2
Home Furniture/Equipment & Clothing Stores*	11.7	10.8	8.3	11.7	11.4
Gen. Merchandise/Building & Garden Supply*	20.9	21.1	-0.9	20.5	20.5
Miscellaneous Retail	18.0	16.6	8.4	17.9	17.6
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	35.1	33.9	3.5	35.1	34.8
Depository Institutions*	13.4	13.3	0.8	13.1	12.9
Other Finance/Insurance/Real Estate*	21.7	20.6	5.3	22.0	21.9
Services	191.4	178.5	7.2	190.3	187.4
Hotels & Lodging Places	13.0	12.0	8.3	13.4	13.4
Personal, Amusement & Recreational*	18.8	17.4	8.0	18.6	18.0
Computer-Related*	9.2	8.0	15.0	9.0	8.8
Other Business Services*	30.3	28.1	7.8	30.4	29.3
Auto Repair/Rental/Parking*	7.0	6.7	4.5	7.1	6.9
Health	47.5	44.8	6.0	47.3	47.3
Education/Social & Membership Organizations*	38.8	37.5	3.5	38.7	38.4
Legal & Miscellaneous Services	4.7	4.7	0.0	4.7	4.7
Engineering, Accounting, & Related*	15.6	13.6	14.7	15.4	15.1
Other Repair/Ag. Services & Museums, etc.*	6.5	5.7	14.0	5.7	5.5
Government	157.5	153.8	2.4	155.6	154.6
Federal Government	40.2	41.1	-2.2	39.5	38.9
U.S. Defense*	19.6	21.5	-8.8	19.7	19.9
Other Federal*	20.6	19.6	5.1	19.8	19.0
State Government	44.0	42.3	4.0	43.7	44.0
State Education*	24.4	23.5	3.8	24.3	24.5
Other State*	19.6	18.8	4.3	19.4	19.5
Local Government	73.3	70.5	4.0	72.4	71.7
Public School Districts*	48.2	46.5	3.7	48.0	47.4
Other Local*	25.1	24.0	4.6	24.4	24.3

Source: Utah Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information Services. Prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). NOTE: Forecast data and cells marked by an asterisk (*) are not sanctioned by BLS.

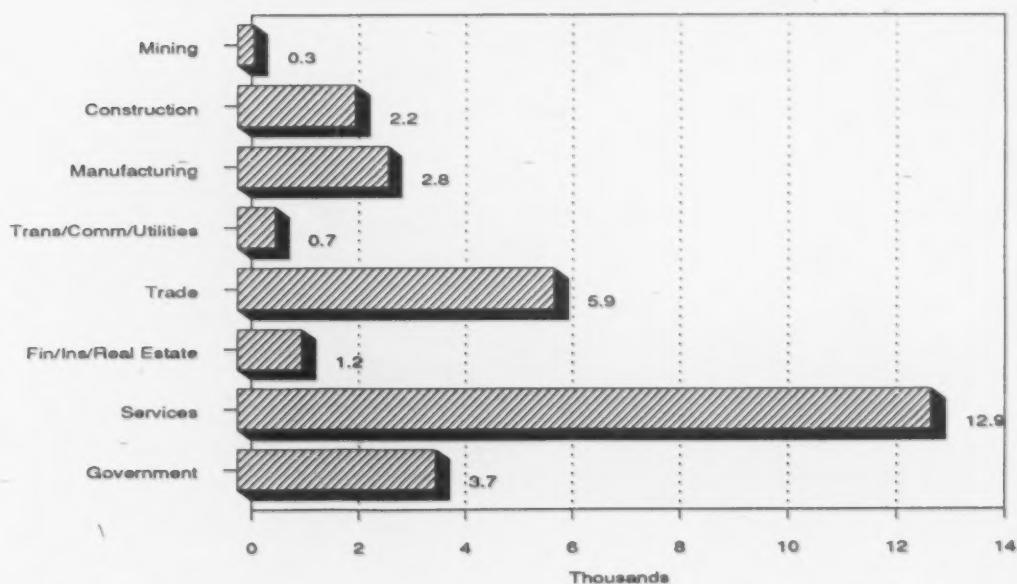
ADJUSTED

**Table 2. Utah Civilian Labor Force and Nonagricultural Jobs
Seasonally Adjusted (Numbers in Thousands)**

	Apr 1991(t)	Apr 1990	Percent Change	Mar 1991(p)	Feb 1991(r)
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	815.3	790.5	3.1	808.6	809.2
Employed	782.5	753.2	3.9	775.3	774.6
Unemployed	32.8	37.3	-12.1	33.3	34.6
Percent of Labor Force	4.0	4.4	—	4.1	4.3
NONAGRICULTURAL JOBS	746.3	716.6	4.1	742.1	725.7
Mining	8.9	8.6	3.6	8.5	8.5
Contract Construction	29.9	27.6	8.6	29.2	15.1
Manufacturing	108.8	106.0	2.7	109.3	109.6
Durable Goods	71.8	69.7	3.0	72.4	72.5
Nondurable Goods	37.0	36.3	1.9	36.9	37.1
Trans., Comm., Public Utilities	42.6	41.9	1.7	42.9	42.6
Trade	176.6	170.6	3.5	175.2	175.3
Wholesale	39.0	38.0	2.7	38.5	38.8
Retail	137.6	132.6	3.8	136.7	136.5
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	35.1	33.9	3.5	35.1	35.0
Services	190.0	177.2	7.2	189.1	187.1
Government	154.3	150.8	2.3	152.9	152.7
Federal Government	39.8	40.7	-2.2	39.5	39.2
State Government	42.9	41.3	4.0	42.3	42.5
Local Government	71.5	68.8	4.0	71.1	71.0

Source: Utah Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information Services.

April 1990-91 Growth in Utah Nonfarm Jobs by Industry



Source: Utah Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information Services.

Economic Events

Please note: Information contained in Economic Events is obtained from regional newspapers, local job service offices, trade publications, clipping services, and local area chamber of commerce publications.

- Morton International announced a major expansion plan at its automobile airbag plant in Brigham City. If all goes according to plan, an additional 4,000 workers will be hired to staff the plant.
- Jetway Systems, Incorporated obtained two contracts worth \$20 million. Most of Jetway's orders seem now to be coming from airports rather than airlines.
- Phoenix-based Imsamet, Incorporated will break ground on an \$1 million salt cake recycling facility outside of Wendover, Utah. The initial staff will be approximately 20 people.
- Georgia-Pacific announced a lay-off of approximately 40 people at its Sigurd, Utah, gypsum plant. Total plant employment is approximately 100 workers.
- Valley Camp Coal in Carbon County gave 60-day notice of impending layoffs to 84 of its mining employees.
- At another Carbon County coal mine, U.S. Fuel reduced its force by about 130 miners in April.

Electronic Bulletin Board Service



We are continuing to add data to our electronic bulletin board service! You can access employment, unemployment, affirmative action, and consumer/producer price indices at the touch of personal computer button. The service is free and can be accessed via a statewide "800" number. Contact Dwight Norris at (801) 533-2748 for more information.□

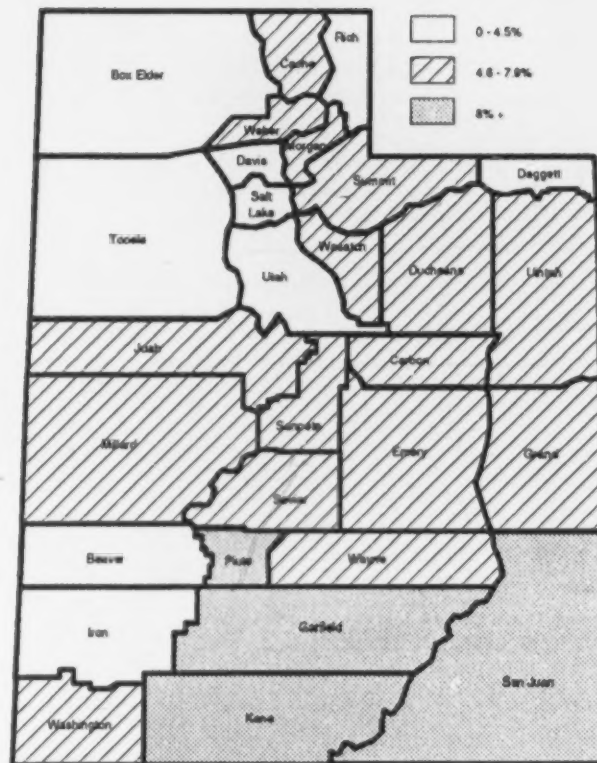
Most counties untouched by recessionary woes

Southeastern Utah is the only one of Utah's eight districts that is presently engulfed in the recession that has swept much of the United States. Both its unemployment rate and its job growth rate are virtually the same as the respective U.S. indicators. Employment reductions in coal and uranium mining are the primary reason for this condition, and more layoffs are pending.

Reviewing the data for the remaining districts, one may be tempted to ask, "What recession?" The districts dominated by metropolitan areas—Mountainland and Wasatch Front North and South—have "rock-bottom" unemployment rates and rapid, broadbased nonfarm job growth rates. Nevertheless, scattered layoffs have occurred, and more have been announced. Layoff effects should soon be reflected in the data. But on the whole, prospects for the near and distant future remain bright because of anticipated job growth.

Recent announcements of planned expansions by manufacturing plants in the Bear River District have further brightened the economic

■ **The Southeast District appears to be the only Utah area engulfed in the recession.**



Unemployment Rates by County April 1991

outlook for this area. Its non-farm job growth and unemployment rates remain favorable.

The Uintah Basin District finally appears to have shaken its economic doldrums with rapid job expansion in many industries,

■ **In the metro areas, unemployment rates are "rock-bottom, while job growth remains strong.**

■ **The Uintah Basin is finally shaking the economic doldrums with rapid job expansion.**

especially those that are tourism-related. In fact, Uintah County leads the state in the year-over rate of nonfarm job growth. Duchesne County is also seeing job growth, and its unemployment rate has declined from eight percent to below six percent in the past year. Oil exploration activities are reportedly up in both of these counties, and the area's housing glut has largely been eliminated.

Continued on page 8

■ **Other areas present a broad range of labor market indicators.**

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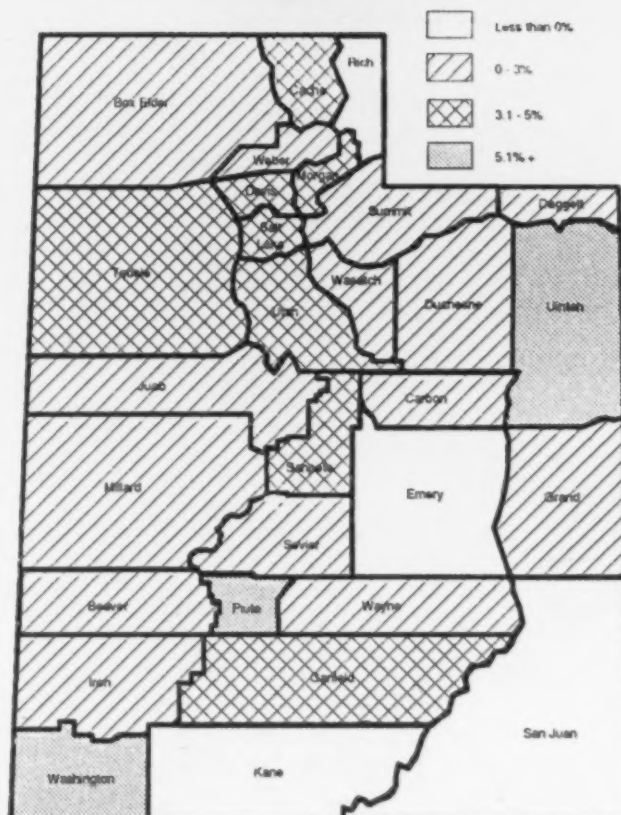
Southwestern Utah (the "Five-County" area) is somewhat of a

dichotomy. The western portion (Washington, Iron, and Beaver counties) is enjoying low unemployment rates and, in Washington County, rapid economic expansion. In contrast, Kane and Garfield counties face high unemployment and economic stagnation or decline.

The six counties comprising the Central District present a broad range of current labor market indicators. Unemployment rates range from Millard's 4.6 to Piute's 11.5, while nonfarm job growth rates range from nil in Wayne County to rapid in Sanpete and Piute counties. On the whole, however, the District continues its lethargic economic growth.

Kenneth E. Jensen
Labor Market Economist

Year-Over Percent Change in Nonfarm Jobs by County April 1991



Metro Areas

Table 3. Civilian Labor Force and Nonfarm Jobs for Salt Lake/Ogden and Provo/Orem Metropolitan Statistical Areas (Numbers in Thousands)

	Salt Lake/Ogden					Provo/Orem				
	Apr 1991(t)	Apr 1990	Percent Change	Mar 1991(p)	Feb 1991(r)	Apr 1991(t)	Apr 1990	Percent Change	Mar 1991(p)	Feb 1991(r)
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	520.6	500.9	3.9	517.1	515.8	119.2	114.8	3.8	117.8	116.8
Employed	498.5	477.5	4.4	494.5	493.0	114.7	110.4	3.9	112.7	112.0
Unemployed	22.1	23.4	-5.6	22.6	22.9	4.5	4.4	2.3	5.1	4.8
Rate	4.2	4.7	—	4.4	4.4	3.8	3.8	—	4.3	4.1
TOTAL NONFARM JOBS	509.4	488.4	4.3	504.0	498.3	97.5	92.9	5.0	96.4	96.1
Mining	3.0	2.7	11.1	3.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Construction	19.9	18.0	10.6	18.5	17.6	3.1	2.8	10.7	2.7	2.5
Manufacturing	70.4	68.4	2.9	70.4	70.2	14.1	13.8	2.2	14.2	14.1
Durable	48.9	47.4	3.2	49.0	48.6	8.4	8.2	2.4	8.6	8.5
Nondurable	21.5	20.9	2.9	21.5	21.6	5.7	5.6	1.8	5.7	5.6
Trans/Comm/Utilities	33.2	30.4	3.6	31.3	30.4	2.3	2.6	-11.5	2.3	2.3
Trade	122.4	118.7	3.1	121.0	119.4	21.8	20.8	4.8	21.5	22.3
Wholesale	31.5	30.4	3.6	31.3	30.4	4.0	4.1	-2.4	3.7	3.6
Retail	90.9	88.3	2.9	89.7	89.0	17.8	16.7	6.6	17.8	17.7
Fin/Ins/Real Estate	28.6	27.7	3.2	28.4	28.2	2.3	2.2	4.5	2.4	2.3
Service	129.4	120.1	7.7	128.4	126.4	38.3	35.6	7.6	37.9	37.3
Government	102.5	100.6	1.9	101.2	100.9	15.6	15.0	4.0	15.5	15.2

Source: Utah Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information Services.

By County

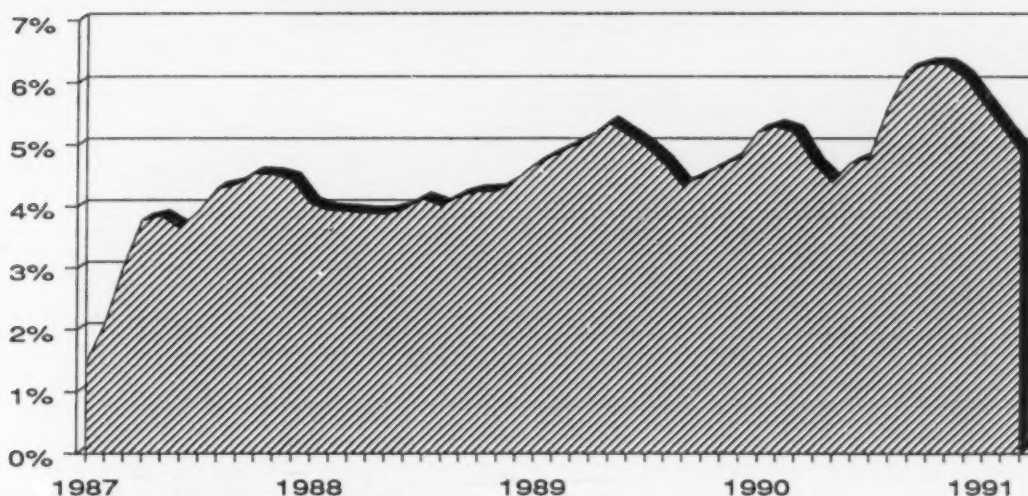
Table 4. Unemployment Rates and Nonfarm Jobs in Utah by County

	Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate				Nonfarm Wage and Salary Jobs				
	Apr 1991(r)	Mar 1991(p)	Feb 1991(r)	Apr 1990	Apr 1991(r)	Apr 1990	Percent Change	Mar 1991(p)	Feb 1991(r)
STATE TOTAL.....	4.0	4.1	4.3	4.4	744,900	715,170	4.2	737,700	730,700
Bear River	4.5	3.2	4.1	4.6	44,230	42,950	3.0	44,160	44,210
Box Elder.....	3.2	3.3	4.3	4.3	15,080	14,850	1.5	15,050	15,030
Cache.....	5.2	3.2	4.1	4.9	28,830	27,770	3.8	28,790	28,860
Rich	2.6	3.2	2.2	2.8	320	330	-3.0	320	320
Wasatch Front	3.7	3.7	4.0	4.1	521,260	499,810	4.3	515,690	509,890
Wasatch Front North.....	4.2	4.4	4.2	4.5	130,790	126,390	3.5	128,370	127,240
Davis	3.5	3.9	3.7	3.9	61,860	58,940	5.0	60,580	59,980
Morgan	5.4	7.7	5.8	6.0	1,030	990	4.0	1,040	1,040
Weber.....	4.8	4.8	4.7	5.0	67,900	66,460	2.2	66,750	66,220
Wasatch Front South	3.5	3.5	3.9	4.0	390,470	373,420	4.6	387,320	382,650
Salt Lake	3.5	3.5	3.9	4.0	379,620	363,040	4.6	376,700	372,190
Tooele	3.5	3.9	4.0	5.6	10,850	10,380	4.5	10,620	10,460
Mountainland.....	3.8	3.9	3.6	3.8	108,230	103,320	4.8	108,600	108,300
Summit.....	6.5	5.0	6.0	6.0	8,280	8,000	3.5	9,790	9,850
Utah	3.5	3.8	3.3	3.5	97,500	92,900	5.0	96,440	96,100
Wasatch.....	6.9	6.5	5.7	6.8	2,450	2,420	1.2	2,370	2,350
Central.....	6.3	7.0	6.9	7.4	15,150	14,760	2.6	14,700	14,520
Juab	6.9	5.0	4.5	6.9	1,730	1,700	1.8	1,710	1,730
Millard	4.6	4.6	4.8	4.3	3,460	3,380	2.4	3,430	3,410
Piute.....	11.5	15.6	16.3	14.8	190	180	5.6	190	190
Sanpete.....	7.5	10.3	10.2	11.6	4,270	4,080	4.7	4,020	3,950
Sevier.....	5.9	5.4	5.1	5.2	4,950	4,870	1.6	4,880	4,790
Wayne.....	6.5	8.3	8.4	6.2	550	550	0.0	470	450
Southwestern	5.0	5.2	5.5	5.0	27,490	26,410	4.1	27,200	26,910
Beaver.....	4.0	5.0	3.8	4.3	1,260	1,240	1.6	1,240	1,220
Garfield.....	8.6	10.2	11.0	10.5	1,440	1,390	3.6	1,250	1,160
Iron.....	4.5	5.0	5.0	4.7	7,850	7,660	2.5	7,910	7,850
Kane.....	8.7	7.9	6.9	6.9	1,540	1,560	-1.3	1,460	1,400
Washington.....	4.7	4.5	5.3	4.5	15,400	14,560	5.8	15,340	15,280
Uintah Basin	5.4	4.7	4.9	6.8	11,000	10,580	4.0	10,490	10,390
Daggett	1.4	2.0	4.0	0.9	310	310	0.0	280	260
Duchesne.....	5.9	4.8	5.3	8.0	3,780	3,760	0.5	3,700	3,650
Uintah.....	5.4	4.8	4.7	6.5	6,910	6,510	6.1	6,510	6,480
Southeastern	6.6	7.1	7.3	7.1	17,480	17,380	0.6	16,880	16,520
Carbon	5.8	6.0	5.9	7.3	7,850	7,690	2.1	7,730	7,660
Emery.....	7.0	8.4	7.9	6.9	3,680	3,720	-1.1	3,610	3,500
Grand.....	6.4	5.8	7.4	6.9	2,490	2,470	0.8	2,250	2,170
San Juan.....	8.2	9.0	9.7	6.7	3,460	3,500	-1.1	3,290	3,190
Salt Lake/Ogden MSA.....	3.7	3.7	4.0	4.1	509,400	488,400	4.3	504,000	498,300
Provo/Orem MSA	3.5	3.8	3.3	3.5	97,500	92,900	5.0	96,440	96,100

Source: Utah Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information Services.

Note: Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates should not be used for federal or state funding applications.

Year-over Percent Increase in U.S. Consumer Price Index



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

PRICES

Table 5. Current U.S. Price Indices

	INDEX		Percent Change
	Mar 1991	Mar 1990	
CONSUMER PRICES (1982-84=100)			
ALL ITEMS (CPI-U¹)	135.0	128.7	4.9
Food and Beverages	136.3	131.2	3.9
Food at Home	136.0	131.9	3.1
Housing	132.6	126.8	4.6
Rent Residential	142.0	136.5	4.0
Fuel and Other Utilities	114.1	109.9	3.8
Medical Care	173.7	158.7	9.5
Apparel and Upkeep	128.8	125.4	2.7
Transportation	122.3	116.8	4.7
Gasoline	94.2	89.1	5.7
Energy ³	99.7	95.5	4.4
PURCHASING POWER OF CONSUMER DOLLAR:			
(1982-84 = \$1.00)	\$0.741	\$0.777	-4.6
ALL ITEMS (CPI-W²)	133.0	127.1	4.6
PRODUCER PRICES (1982 = 100)			
ALL COMMODITIES	116.1	114.2	1.7
Finished Goods	120.6	117.2	2.9
Intermediate Materials	114.3	112.4	1.7
Crude Materials	101.6	105.6	-3.8

1 Consumer Price Index—All Urban Consumers.

2 Consumer Price Index—Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers.

3 Energy is a special group index consisting of prices paid for the following: fuel oil, coal, bottled gas, electricity, gasoline, and motor oil and coolant. It is not one of the components of the "All Items" as its subcomponents are already included.

Source: U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Job Service

Table 6. Employment Security Activities in Utah

	April 1991(p)	April 1990	Percent Change	March 1991
Nonfarm Jobs Available	18,747	21,869	-14.3	17,026
New Applications for Jobs	9,125	9,106	0.2	10,280
Total Nonfarm Job Placements	5,552	7,838	-29.2	5,254
Initial Claims	1,388	1,028	35.0	1,257
Weeks Claimed	11,124	9,917	12.2	13,598
Insured Unemployment Rate	1.67	1.53	—	2.07
Benefits Paid (Monthly)	\$7,187,180	5,334,459	34.7	\$7,370,175

Note: All claims data include Regular UI, UCFE, and UCX claims only and are listed for the week containing the 15th day of the month.

Source: Utah Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information Services.

New Data, New Publications

The following data and/or publications are now available:

- ☐ Historical Consumer Price Index (CPI-U and CPI-W) series, by month, 1978-1991.
- ☐ Utah Reporting Units: Employment and Wages by Firm Size, 1990.
- ☐ Selected Demographic, Labor Market, and Economic Characteristics for Iron County.

If you would like to receive copies, please check the desired items and fill in your name and address.

Mail to: Labor Market Information Services, Utah Department of Employment Security,
P.O. Box 11249, Salt Lake City, UT, 84147-0249.

Hours and Earnings

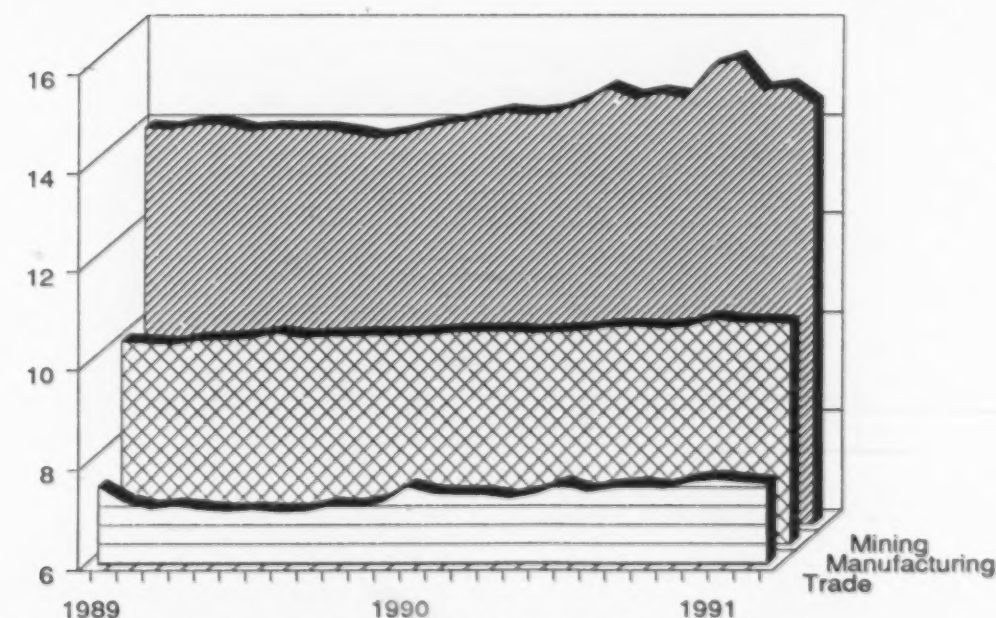
Table 7. Hours and Earnings of Production Workers in Utah

	Average Hourly Earnings				Average Weekly Hours			
	Mar 1991	Mar 1990	% Chng	Feb 1990(r)	Mar 1991(p)	Mar 1990	% Chng	Feb 1990(r)
MINING	14.49	14.33	1.1	14.84	39.8	42.4	-6.1	44.2
Metal Mining	13.47	12.36	9.0	13.69	46.4	44.4	4.5	42.0
Bituminous Coal Mining	17.67	17.77	-0.6	17.60	35.5	40.8	-13.0	48.2
MANUFACTURING	10.44	10.28	1.6	10.47	39.4	39.6	-0.5	39.4
Durable Goods	10.66	10.44	2.1	10.77	39.7	40.3	-1.5	39.6
Primary Metals	13.09	12.68	3.2	13.08	40.8	40.9	-0.2	40.2
Fabricated Metal Prod. and Mach.	10.27	9.74	5.4	10.32	39.7	39.9	-0.5	39.8
Transportation Equipment	13.22	13.37	-1.1	13.45	40.5	41.1	-0.2	41.8
Nondurable Goods	10.00	9.96	0.4	9.88	38.7	38.3	1.0	38.9
Food and Kindred Products	9.07	8.90	1.9	8.85	40.5	38.2	6.0	40.0
TRADE	7.61	7.40	2.8	7.65	28.3	27.8	1.8	28.0
Wholesale	10.15	9.98	1.7	10.01	37.6	36.2	3.9	38.0
Retail	6.62	6.41	3.3	6.69	25.8	25.5	1.2	25.3
Food Stores	6.29	5.77	9.0	6.37	24.8	23.4	6.0	24.8
General Merchandise	6.34	6.46	-1.9	6.23	25.7	25.0	2.8	25.5

Note: Average hours include hours actually worked or remunerated. Average hourly earnings include incentive and premium pay. Data may be affected by labor disputes.

Source: Utah Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information Services. Prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Average Hourly Wage for Selected Industries



Source: Utah Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information Services.

The Economy of Iron County

Iron County is often overlooked for the flashier performance of its neighbor to the south—Washington County. But, Iron County is expanding its manufacturing base and employment at a steady rate.

Population

Newly available 1990 U.S. Bureau of the Census figures indicate that Iron County's population equaled 20,789, up almost 20 percent (3,440) from 1980. This expansion compares with a State rate of about 18 percent. The county's 20-percent growth rate ranked eighth in the State.

Census migration figures are not currently available, but projections indicate that all of the 1980-1990 increase in Iron County's population resulted from natural increase (more births than deaths). From 1980 to 1989, the county experienced a large out-migration, as much as 31 percent of the natural increase in population. However, this loss of population took an abrupt halt in 1989 as major new companies moved in and

existing industries increased employment. This trend of out-migration was not unique to Iron County; 18 other counties experienced the same phenomenon.

About 72 percent of the county's population gains since 1980 have occurred in Cedar City. Cedar City gained 2,471 new residents, bringing Cedar's 1990 population to 13,443. However, the most explosive growth occurred in Enoch where the population more than doubled from 678 in 1980 to 1,947 in 1990. On the other hand, the cities of Paragonah and Kanarrville experienced population declines along with the unincorporated area of the county.

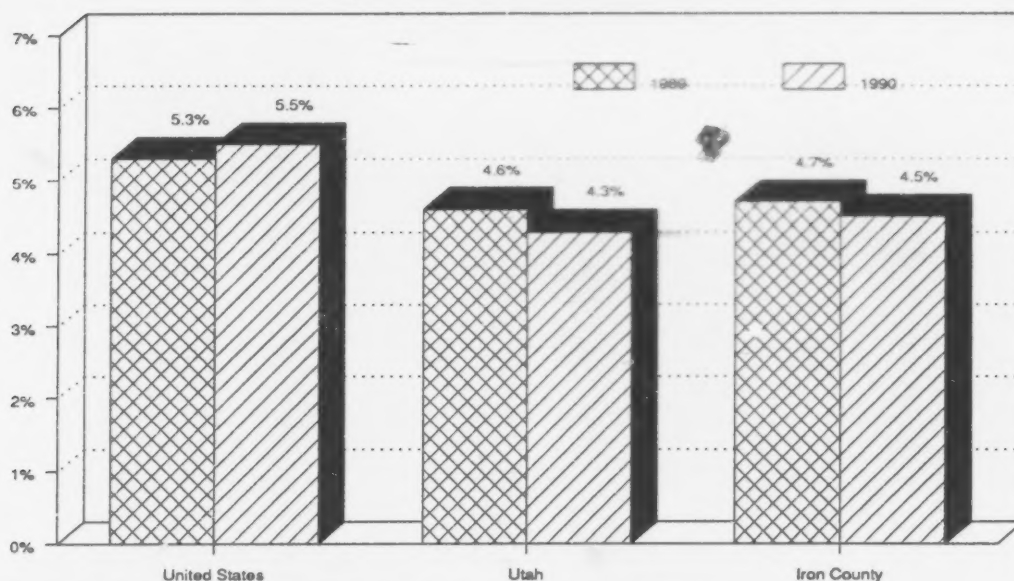
Unemployment Rate

The nation felt the pangs of recession in 1990 and unemployment rates started

-
- *Between 1980 and 1990, Iron County experienced the eighth highest population growth of all Utah counties—20 percent.*
 - *Iron County's 1990 unemployment rate of 4.5 percent was one of the lowest non-metro jobless rates and registered just higher than the State rate.*
 - *The county created 450 new jobs in 1990 for an annual growth rate of more than 7 percent. (Utah's rate was 4.7 percent.)*
 - *Iron County has experienced noteworthy expansion in manufacturing employment. Manufacturing positions made up 43 percent of the new 1990 jobs.*
 - *Running contrary to the State trend, the value of Iron County's residential construction permits decreased 34 percent between 1989 and 1990.*

Continued on page 14

Annual Unemployment Rates



Source: Utah Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information Services

moving up. However, in Iron County, signs of a recession were absent. For example, the Iron County unemployment rate decreased to 4.5 percent from 4.7 percent in 1989. The county's unemployment rate was slightly higher than the State of Utah's 4.5 percent, but was far lower than the U.S. figure of 5.5 percent. Iron County's rate was also one of the lowest non-metro jobless rates in the State. Only nine of 29 Utah counties experienced lower rates than Iron County in 1990. Most of the decrease in the number of unemployed people seems due to an improved labor market where new and additional jobs are available.

Nonagricultural Jobs

In 1990, Iron County added 450 new nonfarm jobs, down from 600 new jobs in 1989. Still the 450 new 1990 jobs represented a healthy growth rate of 7.3 percent—noticeably exceeding the State's job growth rate of 4.6 percent.

Like the State, many of the new Iron County jobs were generated by wholesale and retail trade (27 percent of all new positions). But *unlike* the rest of the State, the greatest increase came in manufacturing with 195 new jobs—a remarkable 43 percent of total new employment. The addition of some major manufacturers over the past year or so spurred this production. The only other sizable job growth came in government with 90 new jobs. Finance/insurance/real estate (FIRE), which has been on a three-year downward trend, was the only major industry to report a loss in jobs in 1990 (16 fewer positions).

Changing Industrial Dispersion

Private industry's share of total jobs in Iron County increased from 67 percent to over 69 percent from 1980 to 1990. This occurred at the expense of the public sector which decreased from 33 to 31 percent.

Increased job shares occurred primarily in private sector service-producing industries. They grew from 51 percent in 1980 to 55 percent (over one-half) of total jobs in 1990. The share of jobs in goods-producing industries declined from 16 percent to 14 percent. At the same time, the State's goods-producing industries declined from 25 to 20 percent.

Compared with 1989, manufacturing increased its share of jobs in 1990. Manufacturing went from 7.4 percent of all jobs to 9.5 percent. The industries of mining and trade also expanded but at less than 1 percent. Of course, as the share in one industry goes up, another industry's share must fall. In 1990, construction and services dropped in importance with construction falling 1.3 points to stand at 2.7 percent and services falling 1.7 points to stand at 19.6 percent.

Major Employers and Payrolls

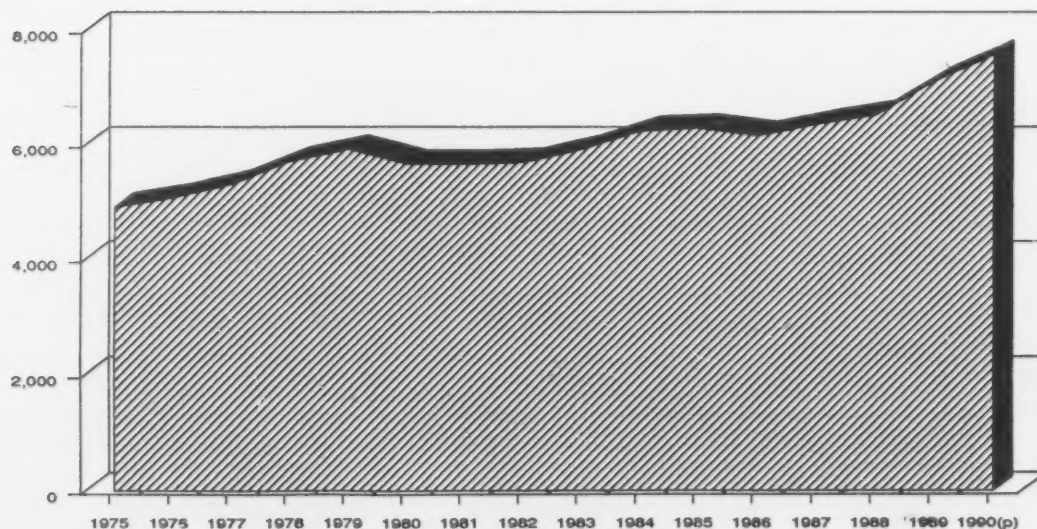
Southern Utah University is still the number one employer in terms of both employment and payroll in Iron County.

The Iron County School District ranks second in each category. This makes the education industry the single most important industry in the county. In third quarter of 1990, these two employers provided over 1,780 jobs, or 24 percent of total jobs; and \$8.1 million in payrolls (27 percent of total county payrolls).

In terms of jobs, the largest private employers were GOER Manufacturing and T.W. Recreational Services. In terms of payrolls Pacific Corporation's Utah Power and Light division ranked on top. The second largest private payroll was Western Electrochemical Corporation with T.W. Recreational Services and GOER manufacturing at third and fourth place.

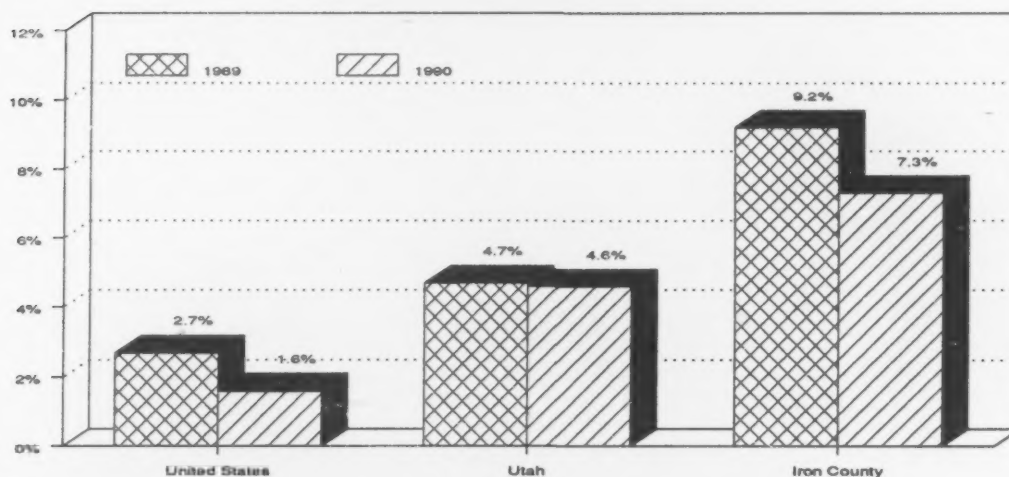
Government ranks number one in jobs and payroll, followed by trade and services. Goods-producing industries (mining, construction, and manufacturing) combined to provide 14 percent of jobs and 20 percent of total payrolls in 1990. Conversely, nongovernmental service-

Iron County Nonfarm Job Growth



Source: Utah Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information Services

Nonfarm Job Growth



Source: Utah Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information Services

producing industries (TCU, trade, FIRE, and services) provided 55 percent of jobs and 46 percent of payrolls.

Employment/payrolls By Firm Size

Wide disparity exists in employment and payrolls by firm size. Forty-nine percent of Iron County employers have four or fewer employees. However, these same firms provide only 8 percent of jobs, and 7 percent of total annual payrolls. On the other hand, only 2 percent of employers have 100 or more employees, but they provide over 33 percent of jobs and 38 percent of total annual payrolls. However, this situation is not unique to Iron County. Forty-nine percent of all firms statewide have four or less employees and slightly more than 2 percent have 100 employees or more. During third quarter 1990, there were 15 employers in Iron County with 100 or more workers and who provided 52 percent of all non-farm jobs. These employers paid 59 percent of total quarterly payrolls.

Cedar City's Share Of Jobs

In 1989, Cedar City claimed 81 percent of firms, 86 percent of employment, and 88 percent of payrolls in Iron County. For all private sector industries except transportation/communications/utilities and mining, Cedar City accounted for 75 percent or more of all firms and 75 percent or more of the employment in the county. In government, Cedar City's share of county employment was 85 percent while representing just 73 percent of all government entities.

Purchasing Power

During 1990, the American Chamber of Commerce Researchers Association (ACCRA) included Cedar City in its national survey. This survey produces a "cost of living index" which is a "reasonably accurate measure of living cost differences among urban areas." A score of 100 is equal to the national average. If a city scores below 100 then it is relatively better off than a city that scores above 100. Currently, this index provides the only empirical comparison

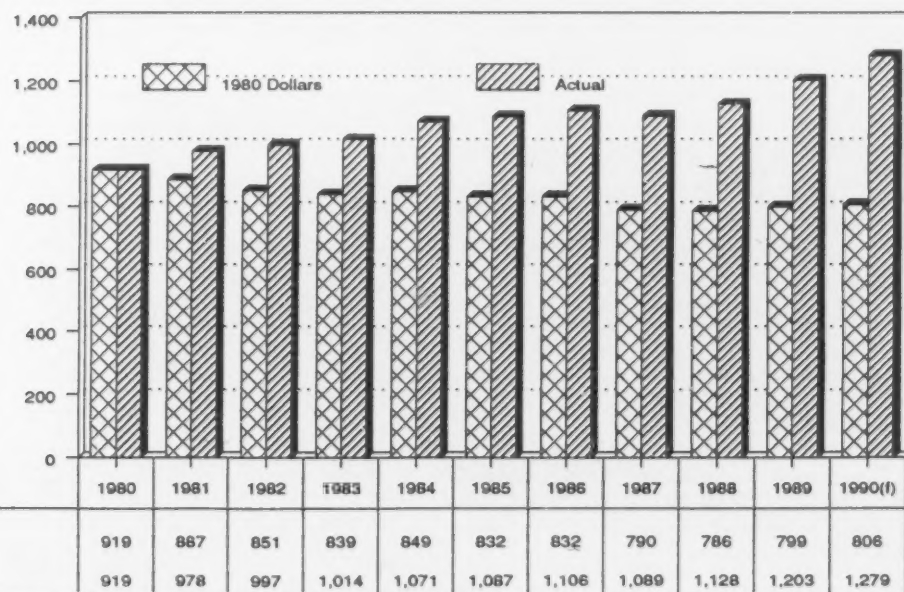
of the cost of living in Cedar City and that of Salt Lake City or Provo.

In fourth quarter 1990, the composite index for Cedar City stood at 88.2 compared to 94.6 for Salt Lake City. For that period of time, a person could get more for their dollar in Cedar City than in Salt Lake. This was also true when Cedar City was compared to St. George. Cedar City was more expensive in groceries, transportation, and housing; but less expensive in utilities, health, and miscellaneous goods and services when compared with Salt Lake City. However, the cost of goods and services is just part of the equation. What about wages and taxes? Since the ACCRA index does not include any of these items, Job Service has factored in wages, to produce a buying power index that is published every year in the *Utah Labor Market Report*. For 1989, Cedar City had a buying power index of 79.1, St. George a index of 75.7, and Salt Lake City a index of 102.6. The national

average equals 100. So, a number greater than 100 means greater purchasing power and a number less than 100 means less purchasing power than the U.S. average. For the three cities listed above, based on wages and cost of products, a person is slightly better off in Cedar City than in St. George, but Salt Lake City workers have much higher buying power. However, keep in mind that this comparison is between metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas, which may skew the results.

Relating annual changes in average monthly wages with the change in the U.S. Consumer Price Index (CPI) is another way of comparing purchasing power over time. This approach eliminates the effects of inflation so that "real" wages can be analyzed. Of course, we make the assumption that the CPI adequately reflects inflation in the county. Between 1980 and 1989, the average annual CPI-U (for urban consumers) increased by 50.5 percent. Over

Iron County Average Monthly Wages



Source: Utah Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information Services.

the same period, the average monthly wage of nonfarm workers in Iron County increased only 30.9 percent (from \$919 to \$1,203). If wages had kept up with inflation, the average wage would have equaled \$1,383. In other words, the worker was "worse off" in 1989 than in 1980.

Gross Taxable (Retail) Sales

Gross taxable sales in Iron County exceeded \$100 million for the first time in 1981. Sales volume peaked in 1985 for both Iron County and Cedar City—\$178 and \$157 million respectively. However, total sales volume declined the following two years, bottoming out in 1987. By 1990, the sales volume of \$177.6 million fell \$400,000 short of the record 1985 sales figure of \$178 million.

Building Construction

From 1984 to 1990, a total of \$89.8 million in building permits were authorized in Iron County. Of this total, \$30.7 million, or 34.2 percent, went to residential building, primarily new homes. During this same period, the county authorized the building of 600 new dwelling units. The construction value of nonresidential building projects totaled \$50.2 million. Over 75 percent of all construction was in Cedar City. Also, 71.5 percent (429) of all new dwelling units were in Cedar City.

In 1990, building construction in Iron County contrasted with the State trend. While all construction categories in the State were up over 1989, Iron County's categories were all down. Overall, the State of Utah ended 1990 with \$1.2 billion in construction for a 23.5 percent increase over 1989. For Iron County, 1990 ended at \$9 million, a decrease of 34.2 percent. However, 1989 was an outstanding construction year for Iron County, but a 13-year low for the State of Utah.

Taxable Income

Data from income tax returns filed in 1989 show that on average taxpayers in Cedar City and Iron County received 20 percent less income than the average taxpayer in the State of Utah. The average income per tax return for Cedar City was \$20,469, for Iron County it was \$20,561, and for the state it was \$25,644.

These data indicate that nearly 68 percent of Cedar City and Iron County income tax filers reported incomes of under \$25,000 in 1989. For the State of Utah the corresponding figure is 61 percent. Conversely, only 32 percent of Iron County and Cedar City tax filers had incomes of \$25,000 or more; while 39 percent of Utah tax filers were in that income category.

Personal Income

From 1988 to 1989, total personal income (TPI) in Iron County increased by 7 percent to a total of \$209 million. This was slightly lower than the State's 8 percent. Iron County's share of total state personal income remained at 0.9 percent. The county's per capita income in 1989 increased 8 percent to \$10,600—approximately 81 percent of the state's \$13,100 average.

The earnings distributions vary between the State and Iron County. In the state, over 90 percent of the people work for wages and other types of labor income compared to only 82 percent in Iron County. Wages for work are slightly less as important a source of income in the county as in the State. Of greater importance are farm and nonfarm proprietors' income, reflecting the county's greater dependency on farming income. □

Brad McGarry
Labor Market Economist

ACCRA Composite Cost-of-Living Comparisons for Selected Metropolitan Areas—FOURTH QUARTER 1990

Component Weights: City	100% All Items	17% Groceries	22% Housing	11% Utilities	13% Trans	7% Hlth Care	30% Misc
U.S. Average	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Salt Lake City UT	94.6	98.1	81.1	89.7	103.5	91.8	101.0
Cedar City UT (Nonmetro)	88.2	98.0	71.7	81.6	95.6	86.9	94.3
Provo-Orem UT	93.2	94.4	78.1	91.3	100.7	90.3	101.7
St George UT (Nonmetro)	91.1	95.9	88.6	65.0	100.9	98.0	93.8
Western States							
Phoenix AZ	100.8	94.6	96.4	103.2	102.2	116.2	102.4
Los Angeles CA	1239	105.0	196.9	76.0	109.5	131.5	103.0
San Diego CA	132.2	106.9	214.4	72.9	123.7	136.7	110.6
Denver CO	101.3	93.4	101.7	97.6	108.6	118.2	99.9
Boise ID	98.8	95.3	111.2	70.2	93.1	109.3	102.3
Las Vegas NV	107.6	93.5	120.2	83.6	117.3	122.4	107.6
Albuquerque NM	101.1	97.9	101.6	97.4	98.1	106.2	104.1
Portland OR	109.2	101.7	133.4	72.5	107.0	131.7	104.7
Seattle WA	111.2	109.8	135.8	63.0	116.5	136.9	103.2
Casper WY	99.5	101.7	85.3	96.0	99.4	103.5	109.1
Other Areas							
Juneau AK (Nonmetro)	131.1	128.0	135.0	134.8	118.6	190.4	120.2
Atlanta GA	101.9	100.4	100.0	115.4	101.3	116.6	95.9
St. Louis MO	97.8	96.5	97.2	108.5	100.4	100.3	93.3
Nassau-Suffolk NY	152.6	119.7	207.1	221.7	127.4	135.3	121.0
Houston TX	101.2	107.7	86.8	95.0	117.6	103.2	102.9
*Highest City	San Diego CA	Hartford CT	Orange Co CA	Philadelphia PA	San Diego CA	Orange Co CA	Bakersfield CA
	132.2	113.8	219.9	180.7	123.7	148.3	129.2
*Lowest City	Ft Collins CO	Kansas City MO-KS	Brownsville TX	Tacoma WA	Albany GA	Knoxville TN	Raleigh MO
	87.1	91.0	69.5	60.2	85.0	80.3	89.1

*Does not include cities in Alaska or New York.

Source: American Chamber of Commerce Researchers Association.

Magnum Opus of Occupations Available Soon

The Department of Labor (DOL) will soon be publishing the Revised 4th Edition of the *Dictionary of Occupational Titles (DOT)*, a comprehensive body of standardized occupational information. The *DOT* describes typical occupations in the economy in terms of what the worker actually does and what worker characteristics are required to satisfactorily perform those tasks. It is widely used by educational institutions, government agencies, private for-profit companies, and non-profit agencies for purposes such as career and vocational counseling, library reference, rehabilitation counseling, personnel management, employment placement, and a wide range of research activities.

Occupational definitions in the *DOT* are the result of comprehensive studies of how similar jobs are performed in establishments across

the nation and are composites of data collected from diverse sources. State Employment Security Agency (Job Service) staff, working under contract with DOL in regional occupational analysis field centers located in Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, and Utah, gather data to support *DOT* definitions.

The Revised 4th Edition *Dictionary of Occupational Titles* should be available for purchase (approximately \$32) in July 1991 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 20401, (202) 783-3238. For more information about the *DOT*, contact the Utah Occupational Analysis Field Center, 174 Social Hall Avenue, P.O. Box 11249, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84147, (801) 533-2225. □

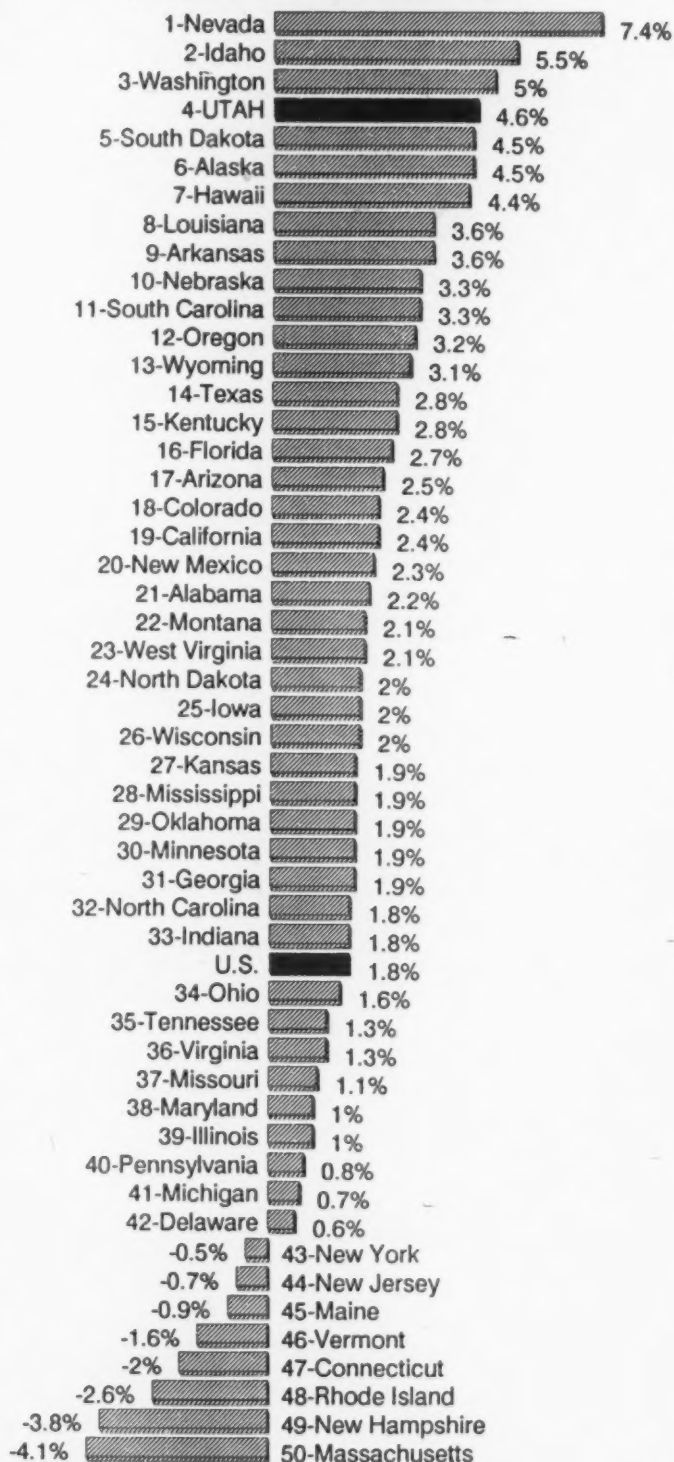
Nontraditional health care plans on the rise

A recent report in the U.S. Department of Labor's *Monthly Labor Review* reports that after a decade of growth, non-traditional health care plans such as health maintenance organizations and preferred provider organizations have emerged as viable alternatives to long-established fee-for-service plans. Virtually nonexistent 10 years earlier, these newer arrangements covered one-fourth of all full-time participants in employer-financed health care benefit plans in medium and large private establishments in 1989.

The report indicates that this development is, in part, a response to rapid escalation in health care costs as a result of both increases in the prices of medical services and the introduction of expensive new ways of diagnosing and treating illness. From 1979 to 1989 the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for medical care products and services increased 119 percent compared with a 64-percent rise in goods and services.

By introducing alternative health care plans, employers are providing employees with a choice. Alternative plans emphasize preventive care and out-of-hospital services and provide incentives for receiving care at designated locations. The introduction of cost control features in traditional health care plans has provided another response to rising costs. □

Nonfarm Job Growth Ranking by State (Percent Change 1989 - 1990)



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Job Service Recognized for Excellence

Utah Job Service has been presented the Michael J. Nas-tick Award in recognition of su-perior performance in both the employment Service and the Unemployment Insurance Programs.

In receiving this award, the Department was identified as the top state in the Region and among the top five states in

the nation. Our performance – was deemed excellent in numerous audits performed by the Department of Labor.

Some of the factors included:

- Number of job place-ments.
- Number of job referrals
- Percentage of referred individuals placed

- Timeliness of issuing unemployment benefits

- Processing and timely handling of unemployment insurance trust fund monies

The award was presented to Administrator Floyd G. Astin at a recent meeting of Job Service Administrators in Denver. □

Data Definitions

(f)—forecast.

(p)—preliminary.

(r)—revised.

Salt Lake/Ogden Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)—Salt Lake, Ogden, and Weber counties.

Provo/Orem Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)—Utah County.

Employed Persons—Civilians who did any work as paid employees, worked more than 15 hours as un-paid workers in a family business, or were temporarily absent from work because of illness, bad weather, vacation, labor-management disputes. Each person is counted only once.

Unemployed Persons—Civilians who had no employment, were available for work, and made specific efforts to find work sometime during the prior four weeks. Persons waiting to be recalled to a job or wait-ing to report for a new job within 30 days need not be looking for work to be classified as unemployed.

Civilian Labor Force—Employed persons plus unemployed persons. Individuals are counted by place of residence.

Unemployment Rate—Unemployed persons as a percentage of the civilian labor force.

Nonfarm Employment—A count of jobs by place of work for the pay period including the 12th of the month. Excludes proprietors, the self-employed, unpaid/volunteer workers, military personnel, Central In-telligence Agency employees, and employees of the National Security Agency. Includes salaried officers of corporations.

Production and Related Workers—Includes working supervisors and all nonsupervisory workers closely associated with the production process.

Average Weekly Hours—The average hours for which pay was received during the pay period includ-ing the 12th of the month. Includes paid holidays, vacations, and sick leave.

Average Weekly Earnings—Includes hourly and incentive pay and is reported before deductions. In-cludes pay for overtime, holidays, vacation, and sick leave.

Initial Claims—Request by an individual following a period of unemployment to determine entitlement to compensation under unemployment insurance laws .

Weeks Claimed—Requests for weekly unemployment insurance benefits filed by claimants.

Insured Unemployment Rate—The ratio of (1) the number of weeks claimed by individuals under the unemployment compensation program to (2) average employment covered by the program.

Reserve Fund Balance—Amount of funds available in the State's Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund to pay unemployment compensation benefits.



Utah Labor Market Report

Floyd G. Astin, Administrator

William R. Horner, Director, Labor Market Information Services

Lecia Parks Langston, Chief Economist

The Utah Labor Market Report is published by the Labor Market Information Services Division of the Utah Department of Employment Security, 174 Social Hall Avenue, Salt Lake City, Utah. To order this publication, call (801) 533-2293.

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